

Filed for intro on 04/08/98

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 629
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Pat Summitt and the 1998
NCAA Women's Basketball Champion
Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize those athletic teams whose
noteworthy achievements are a source of pride for their school, community and state; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable squad is the University of Tennessee Women's
Basketball Team, who recently captured the prestigious NCAA Championship, firmly
establishing themselves as the most dominant team in the history of the game; and

WHEREAS, concluding their season with a perfect 39-0 record, the Lady Vols
dominated the Lady Techsters of Louisiana Tech at Kemper Arena in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, for their memorable hardwood exploits, the Lady Vols received the coveted
Sears Trophy, presented annually to the top-ranked team in the final USA Today/CNN Women's
Basketball Coaches Association Poll; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols ended their regular season with an outstanding 30-0 record,
capturing the Big Apple Classic, the Northern Lights Invitational, and winning against Illinois in
the SEC/Big Ten Challenge; and

WHEREAS, at the SEC Tournament, the Lady Vols beat Mississippi State, 88-60, and
Vanderbilt, 106-45, en route to a 67-63 win over the Alabama Crimson Tide to win their eighth
tournament crown; Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Semeka Randall, were all-

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tournament selections, with Chamique being selected tournament Most Valuable Player for her outstanding play; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of NCAA Tournament action, the Lady Vols defeated Liberty University 102-58, before adding the Western Kentucky Lady 'Toppers to their list of conquests, 82-62; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee fans from everywhere ascended on Vanderbilt's Memorial Gym to see the three "Meeks" combine for 65 points to defeat the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, 92-60, pitting the Lady Vols against a talented North Carolina team in the Regional Final; and

WHEREAS, the team's patented transition game, quickness, defensive intensity and sheer will to win enabled the Lady Vols to rise to their greatest challenge of the year as Teresa Geter and Chamique Holdsclaw hit key baskets, helping the team rally from 12 points down to defeat the Lady Tar Heels, 76-60, earning yet another berth in the Final Four; and

WHEREAS, in semifinal action at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Semeka Randall's defensive intensity set the tone early as the Lady Vols forced Arkansas's Lady Razorbacks into 28 turnovers en route to a 86-58 victory and fourth consecutive berth in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols took their 44-game winning streak and 38-0 record into the game against Louisiana Tech, and promptly capped off the greatest single season ever seen in the NCAA game, with a 93-75 victory over the Lady Techsters; and

WHEREAS, led by arguably the greatest women's college player ever in Chamique Holdsclaw, who finished with 25 points, 10 rebounds, and another Most Valuable Player trophy, Tennessee became the first NCAA women's team to win three consecutive NCAA Championships since Immaculata College and Delta State accomplished that feat as part of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, and are just the third unbeaten team to lay claim to the title since 1982; and

WHEREAS, Tamika Catchings scored a game high 27 points for the Lady Vols, scoring at will from everywhere on the court; Kellie Jolly was masterful from three-point range, scoring 20 points, while Semeka Randall danced her way to 10 points in the game; and

WHEREAS, for her outstanding Final Four play, Chamique Holdsclaw received the Most Outstanding Player Award, while Tamika Catchings and Kellie Jolly earned All-Tournament honors; and

WHEREAS, other Lady Vols who contributed to the success of the 1998 NCAA Champion include: senior, Laurie Milligan; juniors, Misty Greene and Brynae Laxton; sophomores, Niya Butts, Kyra Elzy, and LaShonda Stevens; and freshmen, Semeka Randall, Kristen "Ace" Clement and Teresa Geter; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols' aggressive, attacking game, marked by both speed and athleticism has taken women's basketball to a new level; the team shattered records, made 30-point blowouts look routine and did things never before witnessed in the game; and

WHEREAS, in her distinguished 24-year coaching career, Coach Pat Summitt's teams have won a remarkable six of the last 12 NCAA Women's Basketball Championships, and now trails UCLA coaching legend John Wooden by only four titles; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt is especially grateful for the support of her able staff, including Assistant Coaches Mickie DeMoss, Holly Warlick and Al Brown, and volunteer Administrative Assistant, Sherry Dihel, all of whom have played an integral role into developing this team into championship caliber; and

WHEREAS, those also deserving of this body's commendation for their unflagging support of Coach Summitt and the team include the University of Tennessee Women's Athletic Director Joan Cronan; Director of Basketball Operations, Kelly P. Sahner; Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations, Debby Jennings, Assistant Director of Media Relations, Eric Trainer, and student assistants, Head Athletic Trainer, Jenny Moshak and assistants; and Team Managers, Kelly Botta, Sarah DeLapp, Drew Johnson, Cindy Masters and Lee Turpin;

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly and Lady Vol fans everywhere are proud to honor this outstanding group of young women for their remarkable accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we congratulate Coach Pat Summitt and the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers on winning the 1998 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and extend to them our very best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each of the above-named persons with this final clause omitted from such copies.